WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Condition of Art Museums

3246. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that art museums run by Government present a pathetic picture as reported in the print media;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by Government to improve the condition of the art museums?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The improvement of the conditions of museums is a continuous & ongoing process. The Government of India takes all possible measures in this direction from time to time.

Preservation of Sites in Maharashtra

†3247. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of religious places, tourist site and temples being preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India in Maharashtra;

(b) whether his Ministry proposes any scheme pertaining to preservation, providing facilities and development of these sites; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the annual expenditure proposed to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) There are 286 monuments of national importance in Maharashtra that have been protected by Archaeological Survey of India as per details given in Annexure. *(See appendix 204, Annexure No. 26)*

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Archaeological Survey of India undertakes day-to-day maintenance of these monuments which include structural repairs, scientific preservation, provision of tourist facilities and environmental development. In addition the Archaeological Survey of India also undertakes special repairs wherever necessary.

(c) Archaeological Survey of India has earmarked Rs. 357 lakhs under plan and Rs. 415 lakhs under non-plan for implementation of the conservation programme during (2005-06) for the monuments in Maharashtra.

Upkeep of Building of Historical Interest

†3248. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received proposals from the foreign countries for the upkeep of buildings/places of historical importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of countries with whom talks have been held in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Proposals have been received from Japan, Italy, Belgium and World Monument Fund for conservation of some monuments of historical importance. The monuments identified for conservation under these proposals are Buddhist sites at Sanchi & Satdhara in MP, Ajanta-Ellora, Piltalkhora, Aurangabad Caves, Daultabad Fort and Bibi-Ka-Maqbara in Maharashtra, Tipu Sultan's Palace and monuments at Hampi in Karnataka and Jaisalmer Fort in Rajasthan.

Leaning Towers of the Taj Mahal

3249. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the leaning towers of the Taj Mahal at Agra;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.